

Serial No. 10/567,667
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P09584WOUS

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REMARKS

Claims 8-16 are pending in this application. Claims 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 8-10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilkinson. Claims 8-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Arness.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 112:

With respect to the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite, claim 11 has now been amended to recite that the carrier groove is in the guide vane and that the guide vane has a groove side wall. This now forms an antecedent basis for "the groove side wall" recitation in claim 12.

With respect to the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite, claim 15 has now been amended to recite the guide vane carrier and that the sealing arrangement is between the guide vane and guide vane carrier.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102:

Claims 8-10, 14 and 15 have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Wilkinson. Independent claim 8 has been amended to now recite that the sealing element is flat and that it is arranged in a groove in the guide vane and a groove in the guide vane carrier. Wilkinson does not show a flat sealing element but rather a spring 34 which is "part circular in cross-section" (col. 3, line 3). Further, Wilkinson does not show any sort of groove in a vane guide or vane carrier as now specified in the amended claim. Wilkinson's element 34 merely "abuts against the upstream face of the flange" (col. 3, line 2).

With respect to amended independent claim 15, Wilkinson does not show any of the recited grooves nor does he have a "means for urging the sealing element against the grooves..." as now recited in the claim.

Claims 8-16 have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Arness et al. Arness et al show an arrangement for retaining anti-rotation pins in place using a retention ring.

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Arness et al do not show any sort of cooling and therefore it cannot be said that their retention plate acts as a seal for cooling air, as brought out in the rejected independent claims 8 and 16.

Further, in applicant's arrangement, pressure is applied to the central part of the sealing element so as to evenly apply pressure to the grooves in which the sealing element is located. Arness et al bolt their retention plate at the top. Claims 8, 15 and 16 have been amended to reflect this distinction.

In addition, claim 12 as amended recites a screw which presses on the surface of the sealing element and that the pressure is applied to the middle of the sealing element, a feature not shown nor suggested by Arness et al.

Claims 13 and 14 recite a hooked formation in conjunction with the sealing element, such hooked formation not being illustrated by Arness et al.

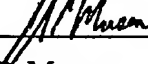
Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8, 15 and 16 (and accordingly the claims dependent thereon) are allowable over Wilkinson or Arness et al for the reasons noted above.

Conclusion:

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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